

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 CPR-01 OC-06 CCO-00

SY-05 USSS-00 PC-01 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 /074 W

-----181909Z 083295 /65

O R 181805Z JAN 77 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9265

AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOME NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, AFMR, CASC, DM

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CRO DAVIS AND OTHER AMCITS

REF: A. COTONOU 129, B. LOME 131, C. STATE 11349

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF EFFORTS MADE BY EMBASSY DURING
COURSE OF DAY JANUARY 18 REGARDING DETENTION OF CRO JOHN DAVIS.

2. VICE CONSUL WENT TO SURETE AT 0900Z, WAS TOLD ALL OFFICERS
WERE IN MEETING AND TO RETURN AT 1100Z. EMBASSY SENT MFA
AN OFFICIAL NOTE AT SAME TIME XPLAINING CONCERN FOR DAVIS AND
ASKING FOR HIS RELEASE. VICE CONSUL THEN CALLED ON DIRECTOR OF
PROTOCOL, MFA, WHO TOLD US (REF A) HE COULD DO LITTLE BECAUSE
EMBASSY NEVER OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED MFA OF DAVIS' ARRIVAL. VICE
CONSUL WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE EMBASSY FOR THE SECOND VISIT TO
SURETE WHEN PANDEMONIUM BROKE OUT, WITH PATIENTS FROM MATERNITE
OPPOSITE EMBASSY RUSHING INTO STREET AS SOUNDS OF SHOOTING CAME
FROM AREA BETWEEN EMBASSY AND AIRPORT (REF B).

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3. EMBOFF PASSED TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO DUTY OFFICER AT MFA
AT 1420 LOCAL SAYING THAT WE MOST CONCERNED STATUS CRO DAVIS.
MFA DUTY OFFICER SAID NOTHING COULD BE DONE AS MFA EMPLOYEES
HAD ALL GONE HOME PER NEW WORK SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED AT BEGINNING
OF YELR. MEANWHILE, REPORTS WERE FILTERING INTO EMBASSY THAT
ALL VEHICLES MOVING ON STREETS WERE BEING STOPPED AND
COMMANDEERED. VICE CONSUL PREVENTED, THEREFORE, FROM TRYING AT

THAT I ME TO SEE SURETE AGAIN.

5. EGYPTIAN CHANCELLOR (BENINESE NATIONAL WITH EXTENSIVE CONTACTS IN GPRB) THEN VISITED EMBASSY TO ASK US TO PASS MESSAGE TO MFA CAIRO AND WE IN TURN ASKED HIS AMBASSADOR TO DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO DISCOVER WHEREABOUTS OF DAVIS AND REQUEST GPRB RELEASE HIM IMMEDIATELY AS PER VIENNA CONVENTION.

6. VICE CONSUL THEN WENT TO SURETE AT 1530Z, WAS TOLD AT RECEPTION THAT EVERYONE HAD GONE HOME AT 1400 LOCAL AND HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN AT 0800 LOCAL (0700Z) WEDNESDAY. VICE CONSUL RETURNED TO EMBASSY AFTER FURTHER VIGOROUS PROTEST TO SURETE RECEPTIONIST FAILED TO ACCOMPLISH ANY MORE THAN PROMISE THAT COMMISSAIRE WOULD ACCOMPANY VICE CONSUL TO CAMP GUEZO WEDNESDAY MORNING TO MAKE A PERSONAL SEARCH FOR DAVIS.

7. CHARGE SENT PERSONAL LETTERS TO FRENCH AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS IN COTONOU APPRISING THEM OF FACT THAT TDY MEMBER OF OUR EMBASSY WAS TAKEN FROM HOTEL CROIX DU SUD SUNDAY AND ALL OUR EFFORTS TO DATE TO OBTAIN RELEASE OR EVEN DISCOVER HIS WHEREABOUTS HAD PROVED FRUITLESS. I HAVE ASKED THEM TO DO ALL IN THEIR POWER REGARDING CRO DAVIS IN ANY FURTHER DEALINGS THEY HAVE WITH GPRV OFFICIALS.

8. M-K EMPLOYEE DICK CONSOLINI WAS JUST RELEASED FROM CAMP GUEZO AT 1700Z, REPORTED TO EMBASSY THAT DAVIS IS INDEED THERE AND THEY HAVE TAKEN HIS PASSPORT. CONSOLINI SAID FURTHER THAT DAVIS HAS HAD NO FOOD SINCE HIS DETENTION. VICE CONSUL HAS JUST BEEN DISPATCHED WITH FOOD AND WATER AND CIGARETTES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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AN EFFORT TO SECURE DAVIS' RELEASE OR AT LEAST LEAVE HIM FOOD. RE PARA 2, REF C, THIS IS FIRST CONFIRMATION EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OF DAVIS' WHEREABOUTS.

9. VICE-CONSUL HAS JUST RETURNED TO EMBASSY AT 1750Z TO SAY THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO SEE DAVIS, BUT THAT EMBASSY DRIVER, WHO RECOGNIZES DAVIS, DID SEE HIM AND DID GIVE HIM FOOD WE SENT. DRIVER REPORTS DAVIS' CONDITION AS HEALTHY BUT "TRISTE." (UNHAPPY) VICE-CONSUL WAS TOLD GPRB COULD NOT RELEASE DAVIS AS HE DID NOT HAVE PASSPORT. ASKED WHERE THAT WAS, CAMP GUEZO RECEPTIONIST SAID IT WAS AT SURETE.

10. PER PARA 3, REF C. AS OF 1430Z EMBASSY HAD ACCOUNTED DEFINITELY FOR ALL AMCITS REGISTERED AS RESIDENT IN COTONOU WITH EXCEPTION OF MISSIONARY DIANE FRAZIER, M-K EMPLOYEE CONSOLINI, AND CRO DAVIS. EMBASSY NOW HAS CONFIRMATION ON SAFETY OF ALL AMCTIS EXCEPT FRAZIER. EMBASSY CONFIRMATION AMCITS' SAFETY EFFECTIVE AS OF MORNING JAN 18. LASOR

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